



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Memorandum

Date: January 28, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

*K. Hansen
for LAS*

Subject: Environmental Water Account

Summary

As part of refining the concept of the Environmental Water Account, CALFED staff and agencies are discussing how to structure a 1999 pilot program for the EWA. At the January 28 Agency Small Group meeting, CALFED agencies recommended that the \$14.5 million in Federal Bay-Delta Act funds from 1998 be held for the purposes of environmental water acquisitions which could be used to provide ecosystem benefits and to test some of the administrative and operational aspects of an environmental water account. As a result of this recommendation, the funding would not be available in 1999 to redirect to other ecosystem purposes which had been the recent recommendation from the Integration Panel. (See Restoration Coordination Agenda item for background on the Integration Panel and proposed ecosystem funding in 1999).

CALFED staff and members of the Diversion Effects on Fish Team (DEFT) have discussed various opportunities for how to use the \$14.5 million for water acquisitions in 1999. A specific proposal will be provided at the CALFED Policy Group meeting.

Action: Decision Item

The Policy Group is being asked to recommend approval to maintain the \$14.5 million from Federal Bay-Delta Act Funds for environmental water acquisitions in coordination with the Environmental Water Account concepts. Policy Group will also be asked to comment and, if appropriate, recommend approval of the proposal for spending the \$14.5 million.

CALFED Agencies

California: The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal: Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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